

1-27-2017

# Champions For Justice & Public Interest Auction 2017

Roger Williams University School of Law

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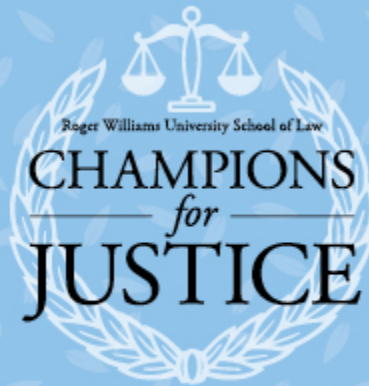
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FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2017 • OMNI PROVIDENCE HOTEL • ONE WEST EXCHANGE STREET

Please join us for a special evening  
to celebrate and support the students, alumni, partners  
and friends whose exceptional devotion to social justice  
increases access to justice for all.

Friday, January 27, 2017  
Omni Providence Hotel  
One West Exchange Street

Champions for Justice Reception  
6:00 p.m.

Dinner, Awards & Auction  
6:45 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

This year's Public Interest Auction will feature opportunities to connect with the RWU Law community of champions. Each of the items auctioned this evening will focus on strengthening professional connections and building new relationships. Tonight is not about auctioning "stuff." Instead, most of the auction items are "experience packages" featuring individuals who share our mission of public service, access to justice and the value of experiential education.

Registration is required for this event. Tickets will not be available at the door. Online registration closes on Friday, January 20, 2017.

## The 2017 Champions for Justice Award Recipients

2017 Champion for  
Justice



Stephen M. Prignano, Esq.

2017 Community Partner  
Champion

To purchase tickets visit:

<http://lawalumni.rwu.edu/champions2017>

For event registration questions, please call Special Events at  
(401) 254-3166

Champions for Justice is quickly becoming a hallmark of the Rhode Island legal landscape, and we are proud to count so many as friends and supporters of the Law School. Proceeds from the evening will benefit the many social justice programs within RWU Law:

- Alternative Spring Break
- Pro Bono Collaborative
- Public Interest Clinical Externships
- Public Interest Summer Stipends
- RWU Law Clinics

#### Connect With Us

For event and package details, visit [law.rwu.edu/go/cfj](http://law.rwu.edu/go/cfj) or search #RWULawChampions on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

We look forward to an exciting evening!



Rhode Island Medical-  
Legal Partnership

2017 Alumni Public  
Interest Champion



Swapna Yeluri, Esq. L'07

The 2017 Pro Bono  
Collaborative Champion



Patrick T. Jones, Esq.

[Full bios online here.](#)

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# EVENING PROGRAM

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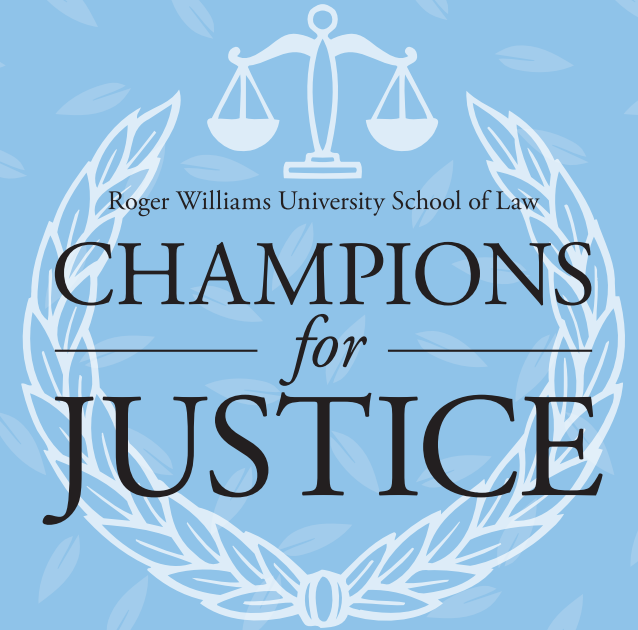
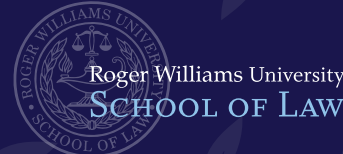
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We look forward to an exciting evening!

## THE 2017 PRO BONO COLLABORATIVE CHAMPION PATRICK T. JONES, ESQ.

RWU Law and the Pro Bono Collaborative (PBC) are very proud to honor Patrick T. Jones, Esq. as the 2017 Pro Bono Collaborative Champion. Founding partner of Jones Kelleher LLP and of Cooley Manion Jones LLP, Pat is renowned for his outstanding philanthropy, wise counsel, and inspirational support.

Through his many years of meaningful and personal dedication, Pat has helped to propel the PBC into the robust program that it is today – facilitating legal assistance to those most in need and providing a strong voice for access to justice in Rhode Island. RWU Law and the PBC are forever grateful to Pat for his exceptional contributions in support of pro bono legal service.



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FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2017  
OMNI PROVIDENCE HOTEL  
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# HONOR THE 2017 CHAMPIONS...



## 2017 CHAMPION FOR JUSTICE

### STEPHEN M. PRIGNANO, ESQ.

Steve has practiced law in Rhode Island for 30 years, first as a partner at the former Edwards & Angell LLP, and more recently as a partner at McIntyre Tate LLP. Throughout his career he has shown a deep and abiding commitment to the lawyer's professional responsibility to serve the community and those unable to afford legal help. Steve has participated in, supported, championed, and provided invaluable advice and counsel to the Pro Bono Collaborative (PBC) since its creation in 2006. As a founding member of the PBC's Advisory Board, Steve was instrumental in developing strategies to make the PBC sustainable and provided a thoughtful and critical voice to the Board's programmatic discussions. Steve brought his firm into the PBC as a leading pro bono partner, one of the PBC's most enduring and active partners for over 10 years. In two recent PBC projects, Steve expended innumerable hours providing pro bono legal service to the H.O.P.E. Federal Re-Entry Court and its participants. He also represented the PBC Advisory Board in drafting and submitting an amicus brief and official comments to the RI Supreme Court on limited scope representation, an issue critically important to access to justice. Steve has also been an active and award-winning participant in the RI Bar Association's pro bono program.



## 2017 COMMUNITY PARTNER CHAMPION

### RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP

The RI Medical-Legal Partnership (MLP) was established to combat the legal issues interfering with the health and safety of children and families. Housed at Hasbro Children's Hospital and Memorial Hospital's Family Care Center, the MLP works in collaboration with the Rhode Island Center for Law and Public Policy, Brown Medical School, hospital staff, and RWU Law students to provide holistic legal representation to families where social conditions (e.g., unsafe housing with lead or mold) impact children's health. The Partnership's Program Director, Jeannine Casselman, has advocated on behalf of thousands of children and their families during her tenure. Despite an enormous caseload of clients and limited funding, the MLP not only provides high quality legal services, but also takes the time to train and engage RWU Law students through externships, summer internships, and pro bono projects. Through Jeannine's mentorship and passion, our law students have learned how to be compassionate, creative, and zealous advocates. Additionally, in partnership with RWU Law's Pro Bono Collaborative, the MLP has engaged law firms and individual attorneys in pro bono special education law and guardianship matters. The MLP has been an extraordinary community partner to RWU Law and we are honored to be a part of the important work that they do.



## 2017 ALUMNI PUBLIC INTEREST CHAMPION

### SWAPNA YELURI, ESQ. L'07

Swapna has devoted her career to serving low-income clients, children, and veterans. She is currently the Director of Pro Bono Programs for the Homeless Persons Representation Project (HPRP) in Baltimore where she represents veterans seeking benefits and discharge upgrades; assists low-income clients with criminal records expungement; and recruits, trains, and supervises volunteer attorneys representing homeless veterans. Prior to joining HPRP, Swapna spent eight years at Maryland Legal Aid representing children in child welfare and special education proceedings. She also created and worked in the Joining Forces Veterans Project. Swapna is active in the community serving as a mentor through Community Law in Action, an organization that empowers young people to promote change in their communities. As treasurer for the Veterans' Affairs and Military Law Section of the Maryland State Bar Association, Swapna continues to develop programs to assist veterans. While at RWU Law, Swapna was the president of the Multicultural Law Students Association, participated in the Criminal Defense Clinic, and won the New England Regional Best Brief Award for the National Moot Court Competition. Prior to law school, Swapna was the Program Coordinator and Summer Program Director for Bridge to Success, a mentoring program between Roger Williams University and high school students in under-resourced communities.



Roger Williams University School of Law

# CHAMPIONS *for* JUSTICE

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whose exceptional devotion to social justice  
increases access to justice for all.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2017**  
**OMNI PROVIDENCE HOTEL**  
**ONE WEST EXCHANGE STREET**

# WELCOME!

Welcome to RWU Law's Champions for Justice Dinner & Public Interest Law Auction. Tonight we honor three Champions – Stephen M. Prignano, Esq., Swapna Yeluri, Esq. L'07, and The Rhode Island Medical-Legal Partnership – and celebrate all who generously support RWU Law's mission and commitment to increase access to justice.

The Feinstein Center for Pro Bono and Experiential Education and the RWU Law Clinics connect students to communities in need, enriching our students' education through practical legal experience while cultivating a pro bono legal ethic. Our students also provide valuable legal assistance to individuals in need. We are indebted to all of you for your support. The programs we celebrate tonight include:

- **Alternative Spring Break**
- **Public Interest Externships**
- **Public Interest Loan Repayment Assistance**
- **Public Interest Summer Stipends**
- **RWU Law Clinics**
- **The Pro Bono Collaborative**
- **The Pro Bono Graduation Requirement**

Tonight's event will raise funds to support programs that have made RWU Law a leader in experiential education and pro bono legal service, and that have increased access to justice to those members of our community most in need.

We are so grateful for your support.

**Laurie Barron**

*Director, Feinstein Center for Pro Bono & Experiential Education*

**Andrew Horwitz**

*Assistant Dean for Experiential Education, Director of Clinical Programs,  
and Professor of Law*

**Michael J. Yelnosky**

*Dean and Professor of Law*



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# EVENING PROGRAM

## **Welcome**

Dean Michael J. Yelnosky

## **Video Presentation**

Our Champions: Impact in the Community

## **Dinner**

### **Champions for Justice Awards Presentation**

#### ***2017 Alumni Public Interest Champion***

Swapna Yeluri, Esq., L'07

*Presented by Deborah Gonzalez '04, L'07,  
Director of the Immigration Clinic, RWU Law*

#### ***2017 Community Partner Champion***

Rhode Island Medical-Legal Partnership

*Presented by Laurie Barron, JD  
Director, Feinstein Center for Pro Bono & Experiential Education*

#### ***2017 Champion for Justice***

Stephen M. Prignano, Esq.

*Presented by the Honorable William E. Smith  
Chief Judge, U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island  
Chair, RWU Law Board of Directors*

## **Special Presentation**

The Honorable Judith Colenback Savage

*Professor of Law and 2016 Champion for Justice Award recipient*

Adrienne Abner, L'17

Hannah Pfeiffer, L'18

## **Closing Remarks**

Auction Co-Chairs

Brittani Mulholland L'17 and Monique DiTullio L'17

## **Silent Auction**

The Public Interest Law Silent Auction is open throughout the evening and will close at 8:45 p.m. Winning bidders will be displayed on the screen in the banquet hall.

# ***JONES KELLEHER LLP***

Attorneys at Law

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of  
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School of Law  
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## Mandell Schwartz & Boisclair, Ltd

### Attorneys at Law

We are proud to honor the *2017 Champions for Justice* award recipients – Steve M. Prignano, Esq., Swapna Yeluri, Esq. L'07, the Rhode Island Medical-Legal Partnership, and Patrick T. Jones, Esq. – and their devotion to ensuring that quality legal services are available to the neediest populations.

You inspire us with your passionate example.

Congratulations!

**Mark Mandell, Michael Schwartz & Yvette Boisclair**



**Thank you for  
your dedication.**

**Partridge Snow & Hahn**  
applauds the 2017  
honorees whose devotion  
to social justice increases  
access to justice for all.

**Learn about our law firm at  
[psh.com](http://psh.com).**

**CONGRATULATIONS.**

PARTRIDGE SNOW & HAHN LLP

## Congratulations and Best Wishes to

PINE STREET INN BOARD MEMBER

# *Pat Jones*



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**[www.pinestreetinn.org](http://www.pinestreetinn.org)**

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## SWAPNA YELURI, ESQ. L'07



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#### **Past Honorees:**

*2016 Honoree: Dena M. Castricone, Esq. '98 L'02*

*2015 Honoree: Deborah Gonzalez, Esq. '04 L'07*

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# RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP



## 2017 COMMUNITY PARTNER CHAMPION

The RI Medical-Legal Partnership (MLP) was established to combat the legal issues interfering with the health and safety of children and families. Housed at Hasbro Children's Hospital and Memorial Hospital's Family Care Center, the MLP works in collaboration with the Rhode Island Center for Law and Public Policy, Brown Medical School, hospital staff, and RWU Law students to provide holistic legal representation to families where social conditions (e.g., unsafe housing with lead or mold) impact children's health. The Partnership's Program Director, Jeanine Casselman, Esq., L'09 has advocated on behalf of thousands of children and their families during her tenure. Despite an enormous caseload of clients and limited funding, the MLP not only provides high quality legal services, but also takes the time to train and engage RWU Law students through externships, summer internships, and pro bono projects. Through Jeannine's mentorship and passion, our law students have learned how to be compassionate, creative, and zealous advocates. Additionally, in partnership with RWU Law's Pro Bono Collaborative, the MLP has engaged law firms and individual attorneys in pro bono special education law and guardianship matters. The MLP has been an extraordinary community partner to RWU Law and we are honored to be a part of the important work that it does.

### **Past Honorees:**

*2016 Honoree: Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island*

*2015 Honoree: Committee for Public Counsel Services*



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## STEPHEN M. PRIGNANO, ESQ.



### 2017 CHAMPION FOR JUSTICE

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*2015 Honoree: Linn Foster Freedman, Esq., Trustee*

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## PATRICK T. JONES, ESQ.



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The Pro Bono Collaborative is proud to honor Patrick T. Jones, Esq., a founding partner of Jones Kelleher LLP, for his outstanding philanthropy, wise counsel, and inspirational support.

Through his many years of meaningful support and personal dedication, Pat has helped to propel the PBC into the robust program that it is today – facilitating legal assistance to those most in need and providing a strong voice for access to justice in Rhode Island. In addition to his enduring financial generosity, Pat has been a member of the RWU School of Law Board of Directors since 2012, offering his insights into, and experience within, the legal profession.

His comprehensive guidance helps direct and support RWU Law's commitment to experiential education and public interest programming. The PBC and RWU Law are forever grateful to Pat for his exceptional contributions in support of pro bono legal service.

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## RWU LAW SALUTES OUR PBC RECEPTION SPONSOR



Whelan Corrente congratulates  
2017 Champion  
Patrick T. Jones, Esq.  
and thanks him for his support  
of the PBC.



WHELAN, CORRENTE,  
FLANDERS, KINDER  
& SIKET LLP

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We wish to thank the many individuals who have devoted their time and exceptional talents to making tonight's celebration a success:

### **Our Generous Sponsors**

For their incredible generosity and belief in the mission of RWU Law and the school's commitment to supporting access to justice, we thank the law firms, corporations and individuals who sponsored Champions for Justice.

### **Student Leaders and Volunteers**

Brittani Mulholland L'17 and Monique DiTullio L'17 have led a corps of students who worked to organize the silent auction, and who are assisting at tonight's events. Thank you to all of the student volunteers for your tireless efforts and dedication.

### **Event Committee**

Members of the Event Committee have invested energy and enthusiasm in planning tonight's events; hosting sponsors, students and guests; and encouraging support and attendance from the legal community and beyond.

### **Faculty**

We are especially grateful to Professor Cecily Banks for negotiating all of the fabulous and creative auction packages contributed by faculty. Thank you to Cecily for her persistence and to the faculty for their generosity.

### **Special Events**

The staff in the Office of Special Events, Heidi Dagwan, Laura Kutsaftis and Melanie Stone, have helped to shape and coordinate the many aspects of Champions for Justice and have ensured the ongoing success of the APIL Auction tradition.

### **Law School Staff**

Finally, we salute the passion and leadership of RWU Law staff who support the extraordinary range of programs that expand access to justice for underserved communities in Rhode Island and throughout the region.

#### **Feinstein Center for Pro Bono & Experiential Education**

Laurie Barron, J.D., M.S.W.  
*Director*

Eliza Vorenberg, J.D.  
*Director, Pro Bono Collaborative and Pro Bono & Community Partnerships*

Suzanne Harrington-Steppen, J.D.  
*Associate Director of Pro Bono Programs*

Lisa Quinn  
*Pro Bono and Experiential Learning Coordinator*

#### **Law Clinical Programs Faculty & Staff**

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*Assistant Dean for Experiential Education and Director of Clinical Programs*

Professor Deborah Gonzalez '04 L'07  
*Director of the Immigration Clinic*

Professor Katie Ahern L'07  
*Director of the Business Start-Up Clinic*

Alexandra O'Connor Lio L'10  
*Director, Veterans Disability Appeals Field Clinic*

Margie Caranci  
*Legal Administrator/Paralegal*

Barbra Supsky  
*Administrative Assistant*

Noga Paulino  
*Administrative Assistant*

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**RWU LAW wishes to thank the following organizations for their extraordinary philanthropic support of four of the public interest law programs that are featured this evening:**

**Adler Pollock & Sheehan P.C. is a Champion  
for the Alternative Spring Break Program.**

RWU Law's Alternative Spring Break (ASB) program began in 2005 with a handful of law students who traveled to New Orleans through the Student Hurricane Network. Through ASB, law students have the opportunity to roll up their sleeves and learn what it means to be a public interest lawyer in the trenches as early as the spring of their first year. Students stay in RI or travel to organizations with dire need in other parts of the country. ASB is one of RWU Law's most popular pro bono programs for first-year law students and now sends approximately 60 law students to 17 different public interest organizations in seven states for an immersive week of pro bono legal service. Many RWU law alumni, who participated in ASB as law students, now host and supervise our students for ASB and, of course, they make the best supervisors!



**Robinson + Cole LLP and Linn Foster Freedman, Esq.  
are Champions for the Pro Bono Collaborative.**

The PBC is recognized as an innovative model for providing pro bono legal service and increasing access to justice. The PBC facilitates collaboration among law firms, law students and community based organizations to identify unmet legal needs and create pro bono projects that address those needs. Linn Foster Freedman, Esq. was the first recipient of the Champion for Justice Award from RWU Law, a loyal supporter of the Pro Bono Collaborative and a founding organizer of the PBC Cocktail Reception.

**Robinson+Cole**

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## **DeLuca & Weizenbaum, Ltd. is a Champion for the RWU Law Clinics.**

RWU Law's In-House Clinics allow students to handle their own clients and cases under the supervision of full-time faculty members in the Providence Law Clinic. With a low case load, students learn to handle every aspect of a client's case with the safety net of faculty oversight. Students are certified as student attorneys and appear in court in both the Criminal Defense Clinic and Immigration Clinic. Students represent low-income and start-up businesses while learning transactional skills through the Business Start-up Clinic. Similarly, students in the Veterans Disability Appeals Field Clinic represent their own clients and cases, certified as student attorneys by the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and work under the supervision of experienced attorneys who are members of our adjunct faculty.



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## **barbri is a Champion for the Summer Stipend Program.**

Public interest summer internships are invaluable opportunities to gain experience, make contacts and build upon students' commitment to public interest. Because many public interest opportunities are unpaid, students can apply for a summer stipend. Approximately twenty-five to thirty stipends are awarded annually. Stipends have enabled RWU Law students to intern for local organizations like Rhode Island Legal Services, Inc. and the RI Center for Justice and also for organizations located around the country and the world. Last summer, students interned at the Capital Appeals Project of the Justice Center in New Orleans, at Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid in Austin, at the YWCA in Haiti, and at many other excellent public interest law offices.



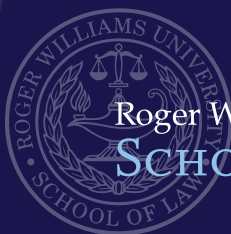


RWU Law gratefully  
acknowledges  
Cox Business  
for sponsoring tonight's  
Champions for Justice  
video.



RWU Law gratefully  
acknowledges  
Motley Rice, LLC  
for being tonight's  
PBC Table and  
Student Sponsor.





Roger Williams University  
**SCHOOL OF LAW**

**Feinstein Center for Pro Bono & Experiential Education**

Ten Metacom Avenue  
Bristol, RI 02809-5171  
(401) 254-4573  
(401) 254-4540 Fax

<http://law.rwu.edu/feinsteincenter>



## Silent Auction Packages

*Silent Auction will close at 8:45 p.m. Be sure to get your bids in!*

### Item #:

1. On the Road with Just Mercy and our favorite Judges
2. Rhode Island Statehouse Tour and Lunch with Claire Richardson, Executive Counsel to the Governor
3. CVS Health: Tour and Lunch with Collin Bailey, L'08, Senior Director of Strategic Procurement
4. Bowling Night with the Law Alumni Association
5. Barton Gilman Walking Wine Tour of Providence
6. Gutoff Guided Pub Crawl
7. Evening Sail on the Narragansett with Trustee Joe Whelan
8. Lunch at Prime Steak & Sushi with Dadriana Lepore, L'10
9. Lunch and Cybersecurity Chat with RWU Chief Information Officer Daryl Ford
10. The Ultimate Trivia Experience with the RWU Law Library Staff
- 11-15. BARBRI Packages
16. One Night Stay at Omni Hotel Providence
17. Lunch at Hemenway's with Michael Voccola, L'97
18. Lunch at Café Nuovo with Andrew Spacone, The Business Man
19. Dean's Night Out
20. Maritime Sail in Jamestown
21. Pool Party with Professor Logan and Patron
22. Authentic Italian Dinner at Hope & Main with BOD George Santopietro
23. Paint the Town Red with Professors Banks and Kuckes, and Dean Hassel
24. Game, Set, Match! A day of tennis with Andrew Horwitz and Robert Flanders
25. A Taste of Brazil: Dinner at the home of Debbie Gonzalez L'07
26. A Perfect 10: Dinner for 10 at Aidan's Pub with Betty Anne Waters L'98
27. Catch a Hollywood Flick with Professors Carl Bogus and Susan Heyman
28. Drink, Laugh, and Improv with the women of the Feinstein Center
29. The Finals Time Study Treats Basket
30. Park like the Dean!
31. Dinner at Noodle with Professors John Grasso, L'06 and Michelle Alves L'03
32. Let's Play Ball! Join BOD Pat Jones for a night at the Red Sox!
33. An Evening with the Tax Man: Dinner at Capriccio with Professor Tony Santoro
34. JAWS: a Private Screening with MAI
35. A Retreat from Everyday Life: A Vermont Ski Getaway
36. Lunch at Parkside with Michael Field, L'97 and Stacey Veroni, from the RIAG
37. Criminal Justice Reform Talk with Andrew Horwitz and Judge Savage
38. Let's Run Out for a Beer! With Dean Yelnosky, Dean Lalli, Professor Brown, and Director of Media and Public Relations Ed Fitzpatrick
39. Lunch with New England Patriots Legal Counsel
40. Dine with your Favorite Professors Monestier & Coombs
41. Weekend Getaway at the Residences Providence
42. Circumnavigation Around Rhode Island
43. Dinner at the exclusive, beachside Sakonnet Point Club with Jenna Hashway L'11
44. Vintage Cocktail Tasting Party
45. Lunch with Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza

